

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

15 January 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Special Management Guidelines for the  
SRI Paranormal Project

1. Both the nature of research in the paranormal field and the intense interest it excites within our organization and in the public at large, together with the highly competitive and complexly motivated character of other research efforts in this field, make it essential that we formulate and adhere to certain special guidelines for the administration of any new efforts. The real intent and purposes of such guidelines would be to:

- a. simplify the contractor's task by eliminating all unnecessary confusion and distractions;
- b. tighten the responsibility and control functions within the sponsor's organization;
- c. serve both the contractor's and the sponsor's interests by increasing project security; and
- d. permit us to arrive at sound and well-documented, however modest, conclusions by focusing on limited, consistent and explicit objectives.

The guidelines listed below need not be considered definitive; to the extent that modifications seem essential from a practical point of view or that additional guidelines would serve the above purposes, contractor and sponsor personnel should agree on emendations.

2. Data Control. The complex nature of the funding and phasing of SRI's past paranormal investigations makes it virtually impossible to establish, now, which data were developed under whose auspices. Other than portions which clearly relate to sponsor tasking and direct or indirect sponsor validation, no attempt will be made to control use of that data--most of which has already become public knowledge in one form or other. But it will be understood that, from the start of the new (January 1974) contract effort, all data developed will fall under the sponsor's purview and none of it will be released in any form to other than authorized sponsor personnel without prior sponsor approval. On its part, the sponsor undertakes to be as expeditious and liberal as circumstances permit in approving the release of non-sensitive data for open publication.

3. Authorized Personnel. As far as the sponsor's organization is concerned, 'authorized' personnel will be understood to mean: in the first instance, the primary project officer, [ ] or his immediate superiors [ ] and Mr McMahon); and, in [ ] absence or with respect to purely 'basic' research matters, his alternate project officer, [ ] or his immediate superiors [ ]. As far as the contractor's organization is concerned, 'authorized' personnel will

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be understood to mean: only those (to be listed by name and function) immediately involved in the research effort, the essential chain-of-command superiors and such other SRI specialists as may be required in conducting the research. Individuals other than 'authorized' personnel, whether from the sponsor's or other governmental or non-governmental organizations, will not be given access to project data without prior sponsor approval. Such approval will be limited to individuals essential to the conduct of the research. It is likely that, because of prior associations and publicity, the contractor will receive queries about the status of research and we appreciate the awkwardness this might create; whenever possible, it is suggested that the contractor take the position that, largely on its own resources, the masses of data already collected are being studied and the results may, if appropriate, be published at a later time; the contractor should avoid more explicit comments unless there is prior coordination with the sponsor.

4. Release of Data to Sponsor Personnel. The requirements for progress and financial reports are specified in the contract and they will be released only to 'authorized' sponsor personnel. In the same sense, visits to the paranormal research laboratory should be limited to authorized sponsor personnel. The sponsor will attempt to curtail inquiries and requests for site visits by its personnel and it is suggested that, should it become necessary, the contractor handle such requests by stating that it is now operating under restrictive groundrules and urging the individual to contact the project officer or his alternate.

5. Acceptance of Guidance from Sponsor Personnel. Similarly, to avoid confusion or disruption of the contractor's efforts, tasking and guidance will be accepted only from authorized personnel; unsolicited views may be referred to the project officer or his alternate. It may be that, later, the contractor and the sponsor will wish to brief sponsor personnel and solicit their views and suggestions; but, if so, it should be undertaken in a well-controlled, methodical manner and for quite specific purposes related to the research design and objectives.

6. Other Sponsorship. The sponsor assumes that the scope and terms of the contract are such that SRI's paranormal investigative resources will be fully absorbed by the effort but, since the sponsor's support cannot be alluded to by SRI, that will not preclude offers of sponsorship by others--including the government. It is suggested that, in response to official or unofficial offers, SRI initially state that it is consolidating and studying previously collected data and doesn't wish to undertake new investigations until this analysis is completed. If this response doesn't have the desired result, SRI should inform authorized sponsor personnel before making any commitments or disclosures. SRI and sponsor personnel will then agree on the most effective means of handling the situation.